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Fair fun
The annual Kinmount Fair closed off the summer season for locals and visitors, and saw hundreds of attendees over the long weekend.
/TIM YANO staff photographer

AH Fire Chief provides update on Fire Master Plan progress

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

After a request from Algonquin Highlands council for a quarterly update, Fire Chief Mike French reported an update on the progress towards completing the recommendations in the Fire Master Plan on Thursday, Sept. 4.

The first accomplishment French mentioned was the E and R bylaw that was updated by council on July 17.

"That's the second time in four years and it's common for it to be done every three to five," said French.

French says that they are currently in the process with the MTO to install iPads into their fire trucks. The iPads will include who is responding to calls and all hazmat information.

"We have been very proactive in doing things with our buildings," said French.

French says that their team has been painting doors, making renovations, and

see OPTIONS page 14

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Runners set their pace at the 30th Haliburton Forest Trail Race, held this past weekend. /photo by David Sweeney

Prime Minister Mark Carney accompanies his wife and friends on the trail. /photo by David Sweeney

Carney pauses for photos after the race with local runners. /photo submitted by Jordana Bain-Burk

Carney visits the county

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

The annual Haliburton Forest Trail Race is sure to bring people from all over the country.

Including Parliament Hill.

Prime Minister Mark Carney joined his wife, Diana Fox Carney in a 26 kilometre run for her birthday over the past weekend. And while staff at Haliburton Forest knew weeks in advance, they kept the arrival of the prime minister under wraps until the big day. "We found out two weeks ago," said Tegan Legge, the manager of tourism and recreation at the Forest, and the trail race coordinator. "We were contacted by security detail, and had been working with them."

For 30 years, the Haliburton Forest Trail Race has welcomed hundreds of runners to the region. This year, 650 were registered, filling up local accommodations and rental sites surrounding the Forest. "This is really the friendliest, happiest event," said Legge. "You always hear that the race is like the Haliburton Forest family reunion, and I love that."

Beyond the visit from Carney, outpourings of love and support for the race took centre stage over the race weekend. Hundreds of positive comments flooded the trail race social media pages, shouting out the volunteers, the map directions, and the trail itself. "Looking forward to joining again next year," reads more than one post.

The trail race has five options for running: 12, 26, or 50 kilometre, and then 50 or 100 mile races, with the longest race taking hours to days to complete. "It's really a change of pace for me," said Legge, reflecting on the hustle and bustle of the past weekend. "I'm not usually a part of that running community, but they all feel like friends and family now."

Legge and her team made the decision to keep the arrival of Prime Minister Carney quiet from the public. "The whole intention is that they wanted to come and run the Forest trails, and not make it a big deal," she said. "And it really warmed my heart, and my team's heart, that we could do that for them." Legge noted that following the race, Carney stayed to chat with fellow racers and snap photos with those who asked.

"To show 650 people the Forest is really huge," said Legge, noting that she embraces the opportunity to showcase and celebrate the land, and how fragile it is in our current climate. "Having them show up, it's a testament for this race, and for what we're doing at Haliburton Forest."

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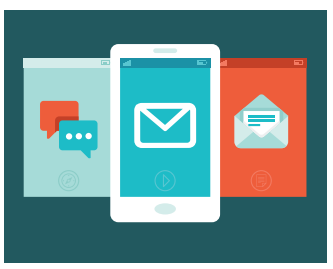

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

Ski trails get a facelift

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

It's no secret that the nature of winters are changing.

What felt like it was once a consistent season of snow has slowly but surely slushed into unpredictable territory.

Which makes it challenging for winter sport enthusiasts to have any sort of consistency moving forward. "We are keenly aware that weather events are getting more dramatic," said Thom Lambert, the president of the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trail and Ski Club Association. "The chances of a nice, snowy winter are getting slimmer."

The good news is that the ski association recently announced a major grant win: $105,700 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, shared publicly on Aug. 28.

The grant was written and awarded specifically to "climate proof" a section of the Glebe Park trails. "When our trails were originally built, no one was really worried about that," said Lambert. "But we've been working on it a little at a time over the past six years."

When climate proofing ski trails, Lambert noted that the biggest concern is water. Last season, despite an early onslaught of snow, ongoing thaws led to consistent pooling along the trails. "To keep trails skiable, volunteers needed to shovel snow onto the trails," recalled Lambert. "At least 40 hours of volunteer work was put into that last year."

By managing the trails before the snow flies, the association is hopeful that drainage along the popular routes will mitigate risk of melts. "The hope is that the project will smooth the trail surface," said Lambert, noting that additional gravel on sections of the trail should help with drainage.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation offers a number of grants, including seed grants and grow grants, aimed at providing support for individual businesses and initiatives to thrive and sustain themselves. Lambert shared that a team of individuals worked together to successfully apply for the sum of cash, which was a stream of the capital grant program.

For this specific project, the bulk of the funding will go towards hiring a road builder. In the past, the association has partnered with foresters and environmentalists, but in order to properly drain the trails, they've sought the support of a professional road developer. "They see the trails just totally different," said Lambert. "But everything needs to be done before snow hits the ground."

The trails are owned by the Municipality of Dysart, but loyally maintained by the Nordic Trail and Ski Club Association. "The ski trails at Glebe would not be there if it weren't for the literal thousands of volunteer hours," said Lambert. While the association takes the lead on maintenance, he noted that the municipality is in full support of improvements, and has offered letters of endorsement behind the cause; a factor that led to the success of attaining the grant.

While the trails are being tackled for climate proofing, Lambert noted that regulars may see an uptick of noise and construction in the area. There will be an increased supply of gravel brought in, with the intention of offering improved drainage along the trails. The trails themselves will not necessarily change shape or size, but regulars may note some slight changes in the overall feel of the trail when skiing.

"We want it skiable early in the year," said Lambert. "And keep it skiable as long as we can."

G.J. Burtch Construction nominated for award

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

From left, office manager Aggie Tose, founder Gary Burtch, owners Andrew Burtch, and his wife, Sara Burtch pose for a photo in celebration of their recent nomination for the Ontario Homebuilders' Association's (OHBA) Builder of the Year Award. /Submitted

Local construction firm G. J. Burtch Construction has been nominated for the Ontario Homebuilders' Association's (OHBA) Builder of the Year Award.

Andrew Burtch, son of Gary Burtch, started working for the family business when he was 13-years old. His father started the business when Andrew was three and was busy his entire life supporting his family.

After trying out college, Andrew decided it was not for him, and returned to Haliburton County. Gaining his apprenticeship and returning to the family business, he is now able to work with his father every day.

After Andrew's kids had grown, his father started to give him more responsibilities with the company. In December of 2023, his father sold him the business and made himself a director.

"He's always here," said Andrew. "He's always able to help out. He has a wealth of knowledge and does what he wants now."

As the owner, Andrew has reflected on the mentorship of his father and sees how much work he has put into G. J. Burtch Construction to make it one of the busiest construction companies in the county.

Just like the men before him, Andrew wants to be the same type of mentor that he has met through his life and inspire his other crew members.

Last year, G. J. Burtch won an OHBA award in Architectural Design in the Custom Home (3001-5000 square feet) category. After receiving the award last year, Andrew says that they knew they were going to apply again, hungry for another.

In August of this year, the OHBA announced that G. J. Burtch was a finalist for their OHBA Builder of the Year - Small Volume award in their prestige award category.

"It's a testament to what my dad and Aggie have done throughout the years," said Andrew.

The Builder of the Year award category is not just in recognition of the quality of their work, but the impact that the business has had on their local community, the local partnerships that they have fostered, a continued effort in encouraging young people to enter the skilled trades industry, and their dedication to customer satisfaction and service.

Wanting to have a stronger workforce in the future, Andrew is highly active at the local Haliburton Highlands Secondary school, encouraging kids to explore the trades.

Even if they are not ready for them yet, Andrew says that the trades will always be there for you in the future.

"You get a sense of fulfilment in what you do, you get to build something outdoors, and you get paid to do what you love," said Andrew.

He says that his favourite part of operating his business in Haliburton County is the people that he gets to meet and talk to every day.

"Being able to interact with the community is wonderful," said Andrew. "There are so many great people in this community."

Andrew says that winning the OHBA award last year is a memory that he will never forget.

"To be able to get up on stage with my wife and Aggie was amazing. I immediately ran outside after to call my dad."

Andrew says that winning this award would recognize all the efforts of his team. Without them, it would not be possible to overcome the unique challenges of the landscape of the highlands, from bedrock to the persistent bugs.

"I am thankful for the people that we have worked with through the years," said Andrew. "I am thankful for the staff we have now."

From custom builds, interior renos, to repairs, no job is too big or small for G. J. Burtch Construction.

Until Sept. 12, finalists in the People's Choice Award categories can be voted for through ohbaaod.ca. The OHBA Award winners will be announced on Sept. 30.

"Thank you dad, for what you have done for me," said Burtch.

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Support families through drug poisoning

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

"We're one big family."

That's the messaging for this year's International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD), which took place around the world on Aug. 31.

According to the IOAD website, an overdose occurs when a person has more of a drug (or combination of drugs) in their body than the body can cope with. It is important to note that any sort of drug can cause an overdose, including prescribed medication. There is also an increased risk of overdose if drugs are mixed.

"The drug poisoning crisis has touched a lot of lives," said Kate Hall, a health promoter for the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit. "We can't turn a blind eye and say it doesn't happen in our community. It does."

The local health unit posts weekly updates via their online dashboard, which also showcases the number of hospitalizations and deaths from overdoses within the HKPR region. In June alone, there were eight suspected opioid related deaths locally.

This past week, one to four individuals were admitted to our local hospital with suspected overdoses. "People using street drugs are at risk," said Hall. "We know there is contamination in the supply. It's very risky."

In order to take these stories of overdoses out of the shadows, the local health unit wanted a street presence to honour International Overdose Awareness Day, which they celebrated on Aug. 29. "I think it went really well this year," said Hall, noting their placement in downtown Haliburton, in the lot in front of the Village Barn. "We wanted to be somewhere a little more visible."

Community members gathered together at the end of August in an effort to support those impacted by drug overdoses in the area. /submitted

Master of ceremonies, Joe Tierney, a peer specialist with the Canadian Mental Health Association, kicked off the event. "Addiction and overdose don't discriminate; they touch every corner of our society, binding us in shared loss and shared resolve," said Tierney. "Each loss is more than a statistic, it's a loved one, a neighbour, a friend, whose absence leaves an enduring void. We know the pain of watching a loved one spiral, caught in the grip of a disease that poisons body, mind, and spirit. The grief is heavy, marked by love, regret, and questions that linger."

Tierney was joined by OPP Detachment Commander Deb McClure, a first for the local police presence. She noted that around the world, flags were being lowered to remember those lost to overdoses. "As members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP, we are not only law enforcement officers, we are community partners," she said. "We see the impact of addiction and overdose first-hand. We respond to the calls. We comfort the families. And we carry the weight of these losses with us. But today is also about hope. It's about raising awareness, reducing stigma, and committing to change."

There was music provided by Gord Kidd and Rich Anton, and a variety of games and activities to welcome not only those navigating losses due to overdoses, but anyone interested in learning more. "It was about remembering those who have died from drug poisoning, and people who have been left behind," said Hall, noting that there can often be a stigma associated with an overdose-related death. "We wanted to provide an opportunity for people who are hurting from this shared experience."

To culminate the day, the HKPR invited Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Larry O'Connor to lead a healing circle in Head Lake Park. Hall noted that this inclusion made the day feel more ceremonial, and added a sought-after depth to the emotional sharing opportunity.

In the past in Ontario, there was a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) offered to middle-school-aged children. Hall noted that this program is now outdated, but the health unit currently enters schools to discuss risks around vaping, and the local community Youth Hub offers programs aimed to assist youth with autonomy and self-awareness, so if drugs come into the picture, they have the emotional capacity to say no. "They've had a good response to that program," noted Hall.

While the health unit makes an effort to raise awareness and support around drug usage, Hall noted that safe-space conversations with kids make a big difference. That was one of the reasons the HKPR sought a public space to present their information around overdoses. "We had families coming by, asking questions," she said. "It raises awareness. And you never know what kind of conversations can start from there."

Tierney shared in his speech that he hopes that by reducing stigmas, individuals can get the help they need. "As one big family, we come together to say: there is no shame in addiction, and there is no shame in grieving an overdose," he said. "Hope drives us to share stories, hope fuels our fight for a future where no family endures this loss, where compassion replaces judgment, and where every person struggling with addiction is met with support, not stigma."

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Gord Kidd and Rich Anton perform at the Village Barn to help raise awareness around drug overdoses. /submitted

Art attack

Corner Gallery held their second Reveal art challenge this past weekend, where four local artists went head-to-head in creating their own variations of the same photograph. /ADAM FRISK staff

Corner Gallery curator David Partridge presents a photograph to participating artists.

Artists David Rolfe and Zoey Zoric react to a surprise that they work to create their own unique interpretation of the photograph

Artist Harvey Walker adds final details to his painting

Artist David Rolfe begins his work at the Corner Gallery on Saturday. The artists had four hours to complete their pieces.

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Choices

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

I HAD a different editorial drafted for today.

And it wasn't bad. Seasonally timely. I'm sure you'll see it again sometime soon.

But something happened over the weekend.

This past week, as I sat on a dreary Thursday afternoon, contemplating what we should cover this weekend, I was faced with a choice.

There were several events on the go this weekend. One of them was the Trail Race at Haliburton Forest. We've covered it a number of times. And with that in mind, I made the decision to skip coverage this time around. As great as the event is, we're a small but mighty team, and other events deserved their time to shine, and we needed to spread out our energies.

Turns out that wasn't entirely the right choice.

Because of course, this was the weekend that the prime minister of Canada decided to partake in the aforementioned race. Of course.

So perhaps I didn't make the right choice. Luckily, we were able to get some photos submitted, thanks to our friends at the Forest. But now I will forever regret my chance to photograph the prime minister. It's likely that chance won't come up again.

But, beyond my fumblings as an editor, I think that Mark Carney's presence at Haliburton Forest showed us a few things.

One, it reminded us of the value around showing up. Regardless of your political leanings, it's pretty neat to have your prime minister in close proximity. He participated in a local event, made the effort to snap some photos with the Canadians he represents, spent the time, the money, the energy to be in our neck of the woods; a little speck on a map that so often feels overlooked on bigger stages. He showed up.

I can think of other politicians who have been directly elected to represent us, who have done significantly less. Some don't even need to show up for debates, and are still elected, year after year. Strange how that works out.

The other thing Carney's presence reminded us of, is the fact that he is human.

He ran 26 kilometres in a trail race, alongside his wife. He wore blue running shoes and uneven ankle socks while he sweat through a cotton t-shirt. Many likely saw him on the course, and didn't cast a second glance while he melded amongst other runners, each huffing and puffing up hills at their own pace.

So while we fly the flags and hold our politicians accountable, we need to remember that behind the campaigns and the ads and the propaganda, there's a human at the core. A human who wears uneven ankle socks, and sweats through his cotton t-shirts while on a run. Let's remember that when we hurl names and sling vitriol. He's one of us. They all are, somewhere in there.

And while we don't all need to be star struck that our prime minister visited the community, we can at least be humbled. That he showed up. That he cared. That he did something that brought him joy. That he reminded us that at his core, he's here, he's real, he's present.

We all have choices. For how we act. What we say. Who we listen to. What we cover.

And I promise, I'll make sure there will be someone covering the Haliburton Forest Trail Race, 2026.

Get to work … on whose terms?

Pair, Ponder

Fay Martin

PREMIER FORD has ordered provincial workers back to the office, on the unproven claim of improved productivity, but more candidly to invigorate the footpath economy downtown. This, in a city in which most workers can't afford to live, and congested roadways and underfunded public transit are an alligator-infested moat that challenges commuters.

A month or so back, the federal government invoked legislation that required striking airlines workers to stare down incarceration and massive fines in order to force their reluctant employer to put in nine productive hours around the negotiating table that, voila!, produced an agreement – after a year of diddling about. The government was shamed into righting the imbalance of power, temporarily at least, between one big biz and many little workers whose selfishness (who's selfishness?) threatened the economy.

About five years ago, workers deemed essential were required to risk their lives and sacrifice family life in order to care for the rest of us as a mysterious evil washed over the world. For a brief time, we banged on pots and declared them heroes, and even topped up their below-living-wage pay-packets. And then we reverted to same old same old, even as the cost of living skyrocketed.

Canadian youth are challenged to find jobs, while the industries who used to hire inexperienced workers to work their fields, sweat in their kitchens and clean their hotel rooms find their existence threatened by reductions of guest labourers who have few rights and little protection from exploitation. Universities are going bankrupt because the cash cow of foreign students who pay treble tuition (and tend to do menial jobs to afford their room and food) has been sent to the bologna factory.

The theme seems to be that the more vulnerable you are, the less rights you have. That the bigger the business's share of GDP is, the more eager the system is to protect it – at the expense of the people who create the GDP with their work, and maintain it with their consumerism. At the same time, businesses get handouts to create jobs and bailouts to protect them.

It doesn't seem right. Or smart.

Because this is happening in the context of a greying demography, a time when the ratio between people working and people dependent on their earnings has risen significantly. We need every Canadian who can work to do so, so that those who are too old or too young or too disabled to work can still live.

And yet we seem, inexplicably, to be doing all we can to make work unbearable. The way is eased, by every means possible, for money to make money. For people to make money? Not so much. We have made productivity the holy grail – which it is: it is core to humanity to want to impact one's world. That is how I would understand productivity, doing what you can to make the world be what you want it to be. Making a meal is productive activity. So is cleaning a house. And raising a child.

But our society defines productivity in money. Profit is a measure – the measure – of productivity. And workers cost money, which diminishes profit, which reduces productivity. So – obviously - it makes sense to replace workers with robots and AI. Workers are dispensable.

Until they're not. Already the outcry from the agricultural sector and the fast-food industry and the health industry is that they need workers – cheap workers! – to keep them viable.

Where is the discussion about jobs good enough for people, rather than people good enough for jobs? Where is the enlightened focus on making work something people want to do, rather than the price they must pay for staying alive? Where is the idea of honourable work? Work that has inherent value, inherent accomplishment (aka authenticity), that expresses personal preference and passion and perseverance?

Maybe it's gone to retirement land, the Golden Years. Or drop-out land, what we used to call hippyville. Or work-life-balance land: the Quiet Quitters, the part-time by choicers, the work from homers.

Maybe Canada can become that land. A place that values work as a way of people being what they want to be, contributing to the community they want to be a part of, building a country and a culture that celebrates humanity.

Midas had to turn his beloved grand-daughter to gold to figure out money wasn't everything. Hopefully we'll smarten up before our life comes to that.

points of view

The wow factor

WHEN I was a kid, the word "wow" was used differently that it is today.

If someone had a brand-new bike, we would say something like, "Wow! That's a nice bike!" Likewise, if someone skipped a rock many times across a pond, we'd say, "Wow! That was a good throw!"

Exclamation marks would always be involved, because, back then, wow was a good thing. It meant you did something amazing and unexpected. Heck, I remember my parents saying "Wow!" multiple times when I told them I was going camping with my friends for a whole weekend.

Now, around a half century later, when people say "wow" to me, it is often accompanied by a sigh, and an open palm slap to their forehead.

A recent example of that happened just the other week, when I found my long lost Australian Chiller hat, that was somehow buried under several heavy boxes at the back corner of our closet.

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

Needless to say, I couldn't wait to share it with the world.

But just as I was stepping out the door", Jenn said, "You don't plan on wearing that thing outside the house in public, do you?"

I nodded yes – in my best Australian accent.

Her immediate response was, "Wow."

Sadly, the exclamation mark that should have accompanied that, had been replaced by a sigh and her open palm, which she used to slap her forehead.

Even the newest students of the word "wow" can probably discern that these wows have totally different meanings.

As you might expect, I was startled by her response. For the "wow" she bestowed upon me was not befitting of such a stylish hat. It was one of those modern wows that signal disappointment. Eerily similar to the ones my grade school teachers pioneered.

I can't understand why though. It might possibly have something to do with the fact that, according to my Shiela (that's Australian for Jenn) whenever I wear it, I tend to go overboard on Aussie stereotypes.

Of course, she's exaggerating.

I mean, crikeys.

My Aussie Chiller is nothing more than a cowboy hat with a flat brim, mate. The subtle design variance makes it slightly more suited to life in the outback, and to recreational activities such as crocodile wrestling, koala chasing, and kangaroo boxing.

The reason it is called a Chiller is that you can dip it in water and put it back on your head to cool down.

I know. You can do that with a bucket too. But hear me out. Before you put it on, you need to do two important things. One, you check it to ensure a crocodile is not attached, and two, you wring it out so it will keep you cool but not soaked, and quickly dry out.

No to brag, but even Jenn noted how Aussie I looked, although, to be honest, I don't think she has any idea what a dizzy wombat actually looks like.

Despite this, she asked me to keep my promise and only wear it in the company of my fishing buddies – and, only then, if there is a reasonable possibility that my Aussie Chiller might be consumed by an alligator.

"That's fair dink'um!" I said.

So, I took it off and offered it back to her. But, just as I did, my dingo Rosie grabbed it and ran off into the woods behind the house.

"We'll probably never see that again," I said.

Minutes later, when the dog returned with out the hat, Jenn scratched her behind the ears and said, "Wow!"

pic *of the* past

This week's Pic of the Past is a bit of a mystery. John Stouffer brought in this photo taken by his father, Archie Stouffer, in the 1940s. The building was obviously built a long time before that. John is wondering if anyone knows where this school is now and any other details about it. Let us know by emailing emily@haliburtonpress.com/FILE

Centre of our universe

THE PELVIS is considered to be the "centre of our universe" in the tradition of yoga. The universe is our human body. The pelvis holds the organs, and it is where the legs and the spine connect to each other. The pelvis is where movement originates. It is where walking, running, swimming, skiing, skating, biking, dancing, playing sports and hiking all begins. The pelvis is where our body receives nourishment, assimilates it and lets go of waste. The pelvis is where life begins and grows.

It is considered to be a centre of intuition in the body. We all know when we have a "gut feeling." In yoga, careful attention is paid to the alignment of the pelvis. First we find a solid foundation for a yoga pose, whatever is in contact with the earth. We create a stable base. Then we align our pelvis to the best of our ability. The position of the pelvis decides whether the spine is in a forward bend, a back bend, a twist or a side bend.

In other words, the spine follows the pelvis. Our spines are meant to move in all of these ways. This is all very important because many of us sit a lot during our day. This means the pelvis is often tipped back and our lower back is rounded. We are in a forward bend if we don't align ourselves. When done for long periods of time, this forward bend then causes the spine to round and the head to come forward. It contributes to hunching in the upper back which means we have poor posture.

Poor posture can impact our ability to breath deeply which can impact our energy level. The position of the pelvis also moves in relationship with our hips. Our hips are designed to move in a range of movements, and sitting for long periods of time contributes to stiffness and tight muscles. All of this information is given to simply say, keep moving.

Motion is the lotion for your body. We are given one body, and it's our responsibility to look after it. We are required to sit, and we need to balance it with movement. There are so many great opportunities to exercise in this county. There is something for everyone. And if you don't have the money, or don't want to leave the house to exercise, there are so many great resources online. The less we do, the less we can do. We need to keep moving. The hardest part about getting active is getting up off of the couch. We all struggle at times to turn off the phone and choose to exercise. But we always feel better after we have done something. The pelvis is considered to be the engine of movement in the body. How will you get your engine going this fall?

Tales from the great

Green meadow

Lynda Shadbolt

letters to the editor

CAT astrophic

To the Editor,

Henny Penny the sky is falling. Felines are taking over the municipality and will soon out number the deer (for which we have a municipal control by-law).

If you cannot enforce or are not willing to enforce one by-law why bring in another one which would be truly unenforceable.

Feral cats are usually cats that are not spayed or neutered. Take steps to have all pets spayed and neutered (except for breeding kennels) and your concerns will be rested. We have a larger pigeon problem than a cat problem.

The coyotes are not in town because of cats. They (and even wolves) follow the deer. A fawn cannot climb a tree.

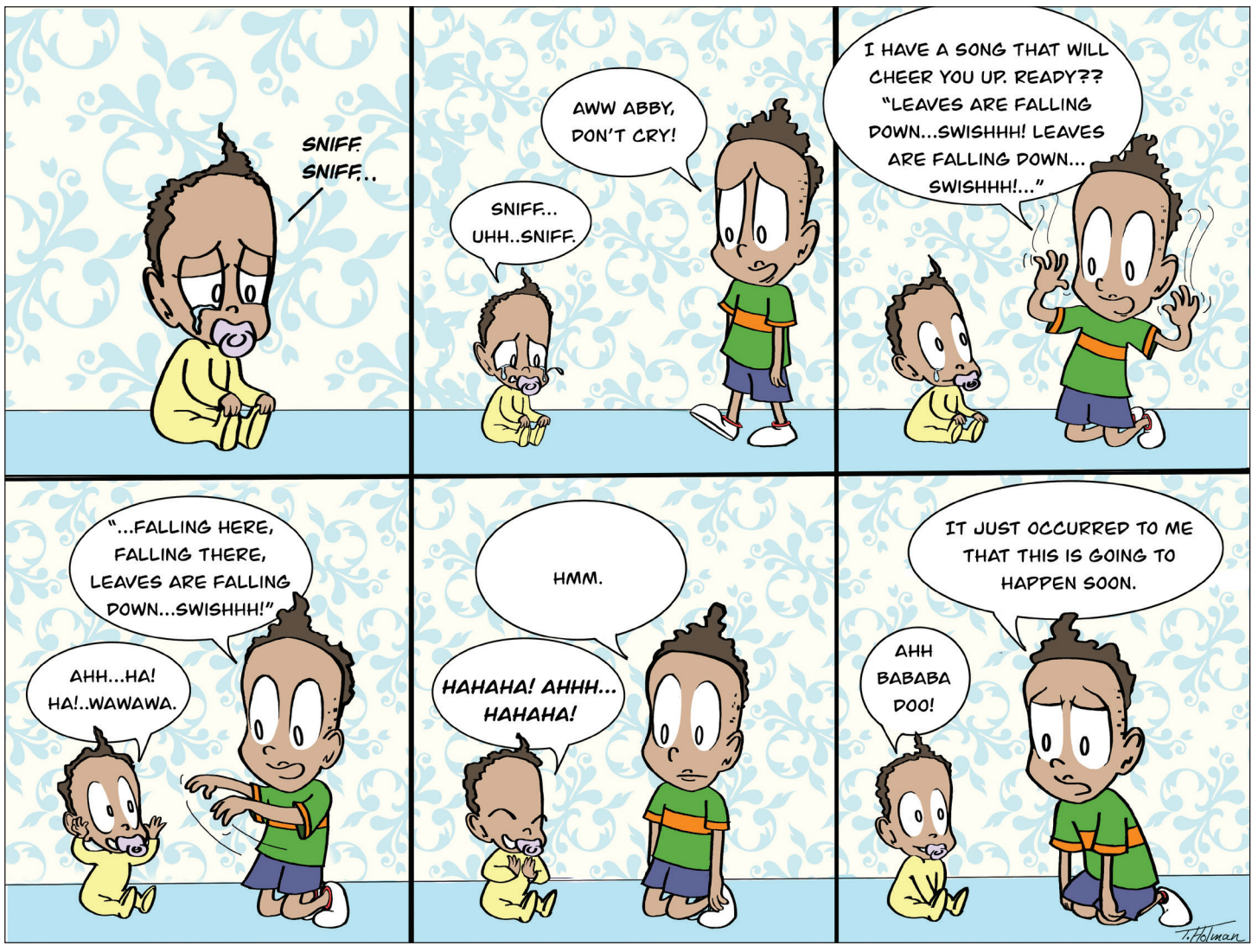
There are far more pressing issues facing this municipality. Like water, sewage, traffic, zoning, youth, health facilities, senior housing, long-term care for seniors and a plan for the future. And yes, pigeons too.

Deal with them please and stop tilting at windmills.

Sincerely,

David M. Bishop,
Haliburton

HALIWOOD NORTH


SNIFF. SNIFF...
AWW ABBY, DON'T CRY!
SNIFF... UHH..SNIFF.
I HAVE A SONG THAT WILL CHEER YOU UP. READY?? "LEAVES ARE FALLING DOWN...SWISHHH! LEAVES ARE FALLING DOWN... SWISHHH!..."
"...FALLING HERE, FALLING THERE, LEAVES ARE FALLING DOWN...SWISHHH!"
AHH...HA! HA!..WAWAWA.
HMM.
HAHAHA! AHHH... HAHAHA!
IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME THAT THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN SOON.
AHH BABABA DOO!
T. Holman

Long weekend traffic: over 1500 charges laid

A long weekend traffic enforcement initiative resulted in over 1500 charges being laid on roads and highways across eastern Ontario.

The goal of the Labour Day weekend enforcement was to increase and improve safety on the roadways, waterways and trails.

The preliminary results show that Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers in East Region laid 1576 charges, including:

- Speeding - 893
- Seatbelt violations - 92
- Failing to have proper insurance - 83
- Stunt driving - 42
- Impaired driving - 36
- Alcohol or cannabis accessible to the driver - 13
- Distracted driving - 5

Marine officers laid a total of 19 charges under the Canada Shipping Act for offences related to a lack or life jackets or other safety equipment.

"Speeding is one of the top contributing factors in fatal collisions and is 100% per cent preventable. The OPP has a simple message: slow down, buckle up and don't drive impaired. Our members also continue to see many drivers who have no car insurance. This is a major concern as that insurance is there to help you and others in the event of a serious collision," said Acting Superintendent Stephan Neufeld, OPP East Region.

Highway and road safety is a shared responsibility. OPP officers across eastern Ontario are on the roads 24/7, looking for those who engage in dangerous driving habits. If you think lives are at risk because someone is driving dangerously, or you suspect someone is driving impaired, call 9-1-1 immediately. You may be saving lives.

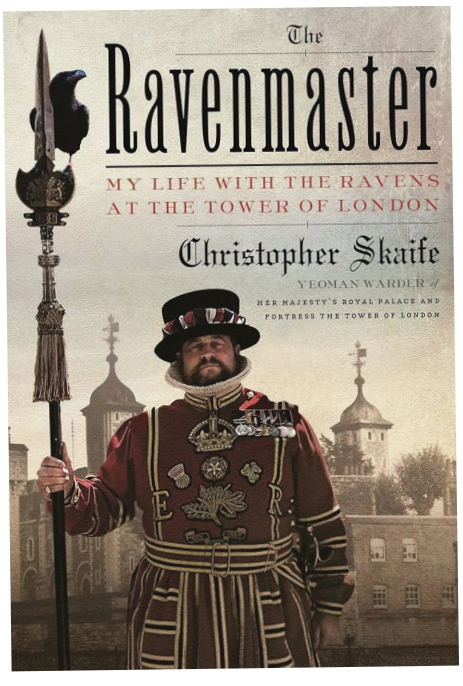
Submitted

Minden Memories

A photo of horses for the Hodgson-Jones Lumber Company. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week


The Ravenmaster
MY LIFE WITH THE RAVENS AT THE TOWER OF LONDON
Christopher Skaife
YEOMAN WARDER
HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL PALACE AND FORTRESS THE TOWER OF LONDON

The ravens at the Tower of London are more than just birds: legend says that if one ever leaves, the city will fall.

Christopher Skaife, a Yeoman Warder, became the Tower's Ravenmaster, caring for these famous corvids. In *The Ravenmaster*, he shares feeding them raw meat and blood-soaked biscuits, buying their food at Smithfield Market, and keeping them ready to captivate millions of visitors each year.

Skaife reveals the ravens' cleverness, social hierarchy, and mischievous tricks, while exploring the folklore and history that surround them.

The Ravenmaster by Christopher Skaife is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. To place a hold or learn more, visit haliburtonlibrary.ca.

New owners of former Kushog marina aim to keep local legacy alive

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

The new owners of the former Kushog Marina are aiming to keep the local legacy alive once they take over this week and officially launch Boshhog Marine & Storage.

Jeff and Lindsay Leney, the new owners of the former Algonquin Highlands Kushog Marina, are more than excited to continue to support the lake community while making their new business adventure their own.

"We're super excited," Leney said in an Aug . 26 telephone interview. "We've been waiting for something like this for a while so it's very exciting."

The Leneys had previously owned a HVAC business and dabbled in the real estate industry before deciding to hit the road on a year-long road trip with their young children through Canada and the U.S. before deciding to plant roots in the Haliburton area.

"When we decided to come home, we decided to land this way as we always knew we wanted to be closer to Haliburton for the kids for high school," Leney explained. "When we moved here we had some investment money waiting to deploy and we were waiting for an opportunity to present itself for the last year and this came up as an opportunity."

> ***"When we decided to come home, we decided to land this way as we always knew we wanted to be closer to Haliburton ..."***
>
> — Lindsay Leney, owner

The couple purchased the eight acre property and business that was once a family-run operation for about 20 years. Leney explained that in 2022 the Wilson family sold the marina to a couple who then turned the lakeside of the business into an Airbnb and now are stepping out of the boat business all together.

And that's when Boshhog Marine & Storage was born. Leney said the couple plans to expand some of the facility by opening up some of the land to allow for more outside marine storage. As of right now, Leney figures there's about the capacity to store close to 400 boats inside and out.

"We'll probably bust out some of that land and actually have some more outside storage and then there's also the inside storage and boat wrap," she explained.

But for the Leneys, Boshhog Marine & Storage is more than just a business adventure, it's about serving the community, planting roots for their family and keeping a local mainstay alive.

As for the name of the new business? Well, it might sound familiar to some locals.

"My husband liked it because of the Boshhog trail that goes between Boshkung and Kushog," Leney said. "There's a snowmobile trail that the locals named. So the locals understand Boshhog, others might not but they'll get there."

Ghosts and ghouls get ready for fifth Haunted Forest Walk

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

This year's Go Away Acres Haunted Forest Walk will be taking place at 1043 Turntable Drive in Minden Hills on Oct. 17 and 18 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. /submitted

Thrill seekers beware, you are in for a scare at this year's Go Away Acres Haunted Forest Walk.

Pumpkin spice lattes and jack-o-lanterns may seem like a distant dream, but for Rachael Velkovski and her family, production has already begun for this year's top Halloween event.

This is the fifth momentous year of her family and devoted team of volunteers putting on the scariest Halloween event in the county.

This week, Velkovski says that they are already building props and building scenes for the event.

With the ice storm this April, Velkovski says that her property was hit hard. Minden Equipment Rent-All saved the day, helping her out with an excavator. A staunch supporter of the Haunted Forest Walk, Minden Rent-All also provides chainsaw fuel for the slasher to use in the haunted walk.

The Haunted Forest Walk was originally conceived by Velkovski to give something for both teens and adults to do on Halloween in the county. Lacking trick or treaters, Velkovski set off to make her home a must-see Halloween destination in Minden.

In an effort to provide an affordable, fun outing for the entire family, Velkovski says that this year's admission to the Haunted Forest Walk is going to remain $3 per person. She says that some families will stay for the entire night, hanging out, and looping through the walk again and again.

Velkovski says that their fifth year will be the scariest and most ambitious walk to date. This year's walk will have over ten scenes including references to horror favourites like *Nightmare on Elm Street* and *The Ring*. In the past, the walk has featured mad doctors, slashers, blood, gore, monsters, and all the horror you could ever imagine.

"We try to put as much detail into the themes as we can," said Velkovski.

If things are too scary for you, you can always yell the word chicken.

"We had six people who called chicken," said Velkovski. "Two of them were adults. That's always what you want to hear."

Last year's Haunted Forest Walk saw over 740 visitors and raised over $2000 towards local charities like the Minden Community Food Centre.

Building the scariest Halloween experience takes time. Velkovski says that her team will be working on constructing props and scenes, finding costumes, and getting things ready for the next four or five weeks. Afterwards, it will take about three weeks to set up the entire Haunted Forest Walk on her property.

It is still too early for Velkovski to say which charity will benefit from the Haunted Forest Walk this year but Velkovski has there are several that she is thinking of, especially to help kids out in the county.

Local businesses like the Canadian Tire, Kawartha Dairy, and the Dominion Hotel have donated prizes to be won at the event. If any other businesses are interested in joining in on the fun, please email mindenhauntedforestwalk@hotmail.com.

Minden Top Dog will also be present at the event offering hot dogs and drinks, with all the proceeds going towards charity.

"This is a big year for us," said Velkovski. With navigating her child's cancer journey and unexpected events like her engine blowing up, she has remained dedicated to the event, putting smiles on people's faces year after year.

Velkovski says that her volunteer force consists of both adults and local high school students getting their volunteering hours. Even after students have graduated, they make time each year to come back and volunteer with the Haunted Forest Walk.

This year's Go Away Acres Haunted Forest Walk will be taking place at 1043 Turntable Drive in Minden Hills on Oct. 17 and 18 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Velkovski would like the public to know that the walk is wheelchair and walker accessible. While the exit is through the forest, participants in need of an accessible exit can leave the way they came through the flat driveway. Please speak to a volunteer if you are wanting assistance.

Velkovski would also like to thank Fowler Construction, All Glass and Mirror, Foodland, and the Haliburton Bus Lines for their continued support in making the Haunted Forest Walk the best it can be.

"We love giving back to the community," said Velkovski. "The County of Haliburton has a fantastic community and this is our way of saying thanks.

"I also love scaring people," said Velkovski.

Velkovski says that she loves the feedback that the community has given over the past five years and is grateful for such a dedicated team of volunteers.

Back to School

Caroline, Greycen, and Nova Krampp ready for the first day.

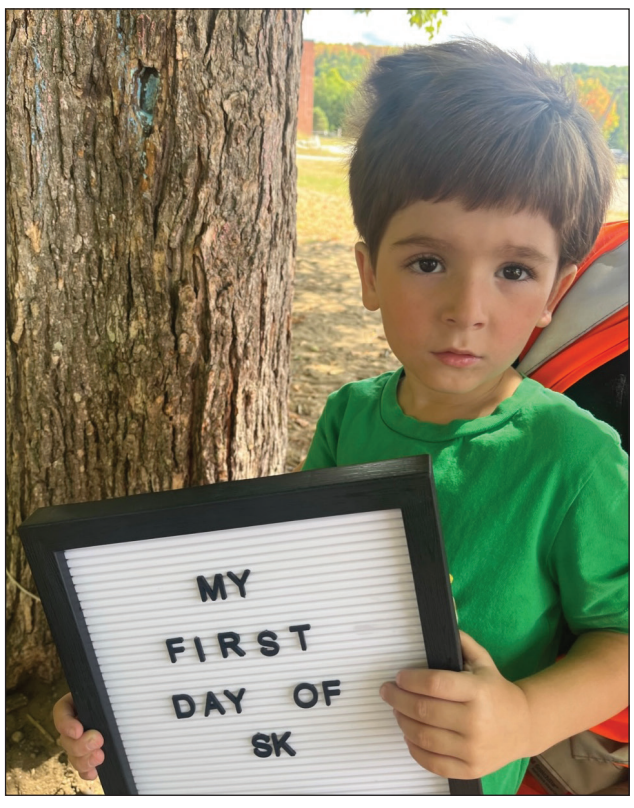
B. Warburton-Smith excited about starting Grade 3

Fenton Taylor and brother Dante

Dayton Grade 6

B. Warburton-Smith excited about starting Grade 3

Brynnlee on her first day of Grade 2



Edward Day ready for kindergarten

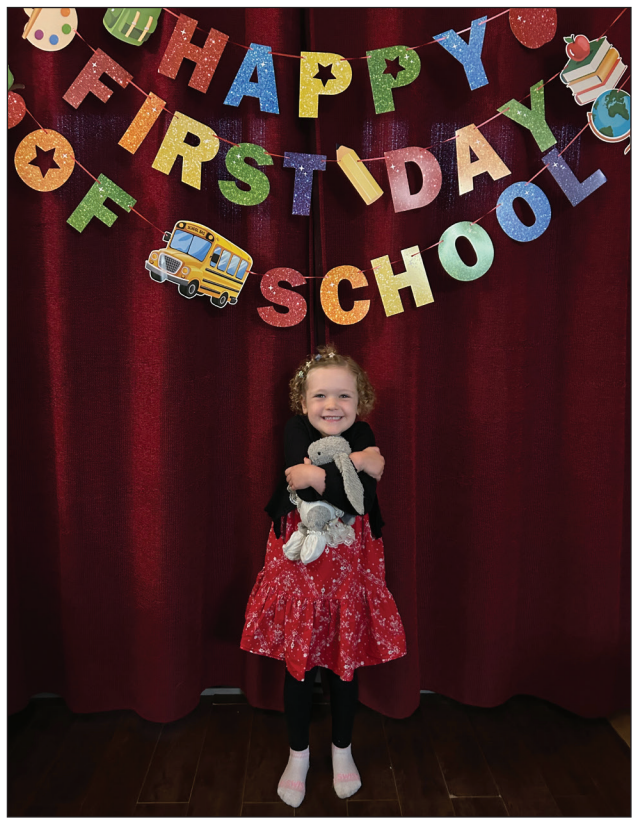
Hunter and Harper Hamilton, Grade 9 and Grade 7

Emmie, Chloe, and Ellie on the first day

Grayson, Faith, and Nixon ready for school

Hayes on his first day of JK

Isaiah and Asher Young excited for their first day.



Jessie starts Kindergarten

ColourFest

Free family fun in Head Lake Park!
Head Lake Park, Haliburton
Saturday, September 20, 2025
11 AM to 3 PM

- **Face Painting**
- **Mask Creation** — Haliburton Highlands Museum
- **Inflatable Games**
- **Petting Zoo** — Critter Visits of Woolley Wonderland Farm
- **Plein Air** — Rails End Gallery & Arts Centre
- **Craft** — Haliburton County Public Library
- **Classic Car Show** — Haliburton Highlands Time Travellers
- **Games**
- **Activities** — Local Groups & Businesses
- **Local Vendor Market**

Pumpkin Rolling Contest
Rotary Club of Haliburton
11AM - 2:15PM: Register & pick your free pumpkin
2:30PM: Rolling contest starts on York St

Haliburton Solar+Wind

FREE

Thank you Haliburton Solar and Wind for donating time to block off the street for the pumpkin roll!

Municipality of Dysart et al

www.dysartetal.ca/colourfest

Olivia Riley celebrates her first day of Grade 2

Caroline Krampp, Kaidence Bedal, and Linkin Dodge

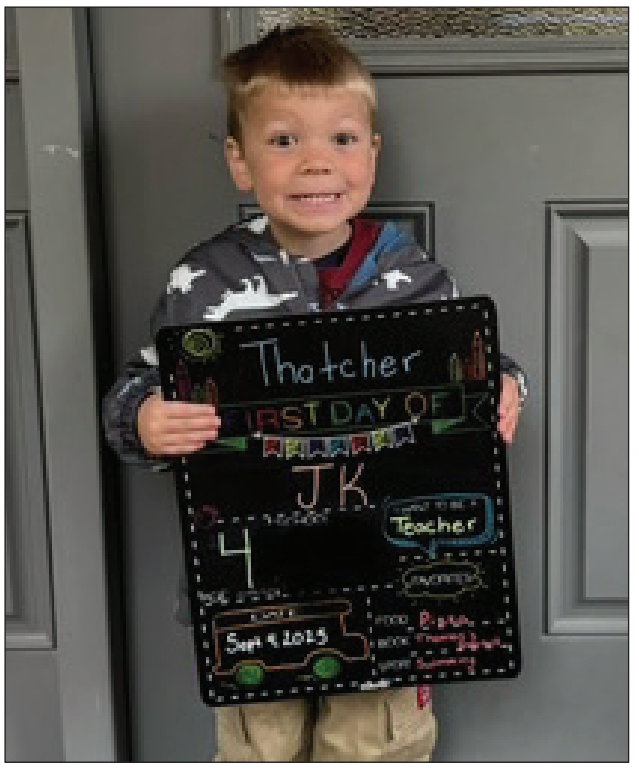
Oaklie and Olsen ready for school

Madisyn Fisher heads to Senior Kindergarten

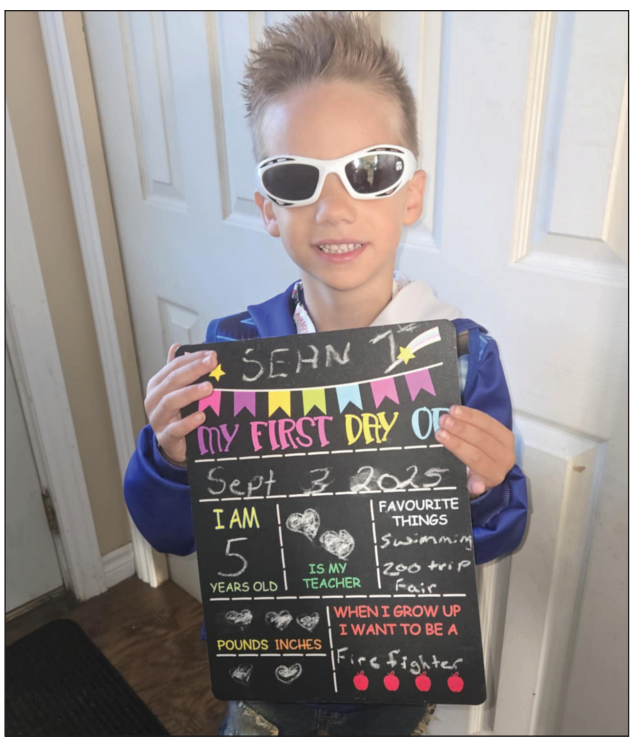
Abby is ready for kindergarten

Pierce, Rhett, and Scottie Spooner wait at their bus stop

Karson ready for SK



Thatcher MacDonald's first day



Sean Bacon ready for Grade 1

Rue and Rayson Kelly get ready for their first day

Sky on her first day of Grade 2

Ruby Walt Grade 2

Rylan Pearson ready to start the year

Sawyer Cox starting senior Kindergarten, with support from his sister.

Ryder heads to Grade 2

Joe's first day of Junior Kindergarten

The Danilko family celebrates back to school

Options presented to replace Dorset fire station

from page 1

working towards upgrades like a new floor at Station 7.

"The main thing that you get with the Fire Master Plan is we now have a strategic plan for the fire department going forward for the short term [and] long term purchases and activities for the fire department," said French.

It also provides a work plan for whoever is fire chief in the future, he added.

"Some of these will require funding to do, some just be natural progression with our staff doing it."

French reports that the fire department has three iPads currently and will be working with AH's IT department for the rest.

"We do need to be as proactive as we can be," said Mayor Liz Danielsen. "Whether there are options on our own land, in that area, or whether we are looking at other opportunities for land in that area."

"That is a discussion that the CAO and myself should have, to see what the best steps would be going forward in which we will bring to council," said French.

This is referring to a recommendation in the Fire Master Plan prepared by the Loomex Group which recommended replacing Station 60 in Dorset. A new facility, site, and construction needs to be considered for the new station.

French also discussed applying to the Solicitor General's Fire Protection Grant. Last year, funds from the grant went towards a commercial washing machine. This year, they hope to use the funds to purchase a new dryer. Their current cabinet-style dryer takes around six hours to dry gear. The new dryer would only take two hours. The new dryer will be put at Station 80 and the old dryer will be moved to Station 60 to dry their ice water suits.

Other items that they are looking to acquire are six sets of bunker gear which includes masks, hoods, and gloves. Using their new washer they can wash used equipment and have an extra spare to use while the new one is being cleaned.

The new gear and cleaning procedures are all new advancements to protect firefighters.

"I think the fact that they are recognizing cancer as a real need. The firefighter's fatality rate is a lot higher than a standard person," said French.

Last year there were 30 firefighters that died from cancer. It is very important to continue going this way, says French.

Before French left the council meeting, he thanked them for their support during the county-wide fire ban.

"We have had three fires in the last twelve hours," said French. "That fire ban is very important, the bush is still dry."

French says two of the three fires were human-caused.

> ***"The firefighter's fatality rate is a lot higher than a standard person ..."***
>
> — Fire Chief Mike French

Daytime burning in AH is prohibited until Oct. 31 . Burning is only allowed between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.

"I think it will be the trend going forward, that we are so dry," said French.

HALIBURTON COUNTY FOLK SOCIETY
presents
SANDRA BOUZA
AND HER BAND FOR A NIGHT OF STORIES, ROOTS & SOUL
w/ local support LIZZY CLARKE
SEP 27 , 2025 • 7:30PM • HALIBURTON, ON
PINESTONE RESORT
tickets at www.haliburtonfolk.com
Canadian Heritage
Haliburton County Folk Society
co-operative

Council receives update on EASE grant

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

On Thursday Aug. 28, Minden Hills' Director of Community Services Candace McGuigan updated council on the Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) grant.

The EASE grant is to "enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities and older adults by supporting them to live active, healthy, safe, and socially connected lives," said McGuigan.

A staff review found ten areas within the arena that would benefit from accessibility buttons and two washrooms needing emergency call systems.

The maximum funds allocated per recipient is $60,000, intended to cover the entire cost of the project.

Council will know if they receive the funding between November and December 2025. The improvements must be completed by September of 2026.

"I hope this gets funded because it really has to be done whether it is funded or not," said Ward 2 Councillor Pam Sayne. "And we don't really have the budget. Thank you for finding this."

Councillor McKelvey asked about the costs for the project. McGugian said it is just shy of the $60,000 figure.

"It is kind of sad that it wasn't done when they built the facility to meet current standards," said Councillor McKelvey.

www.mindenhills.ca **In Case of Emergency Dial 911 / After-Hours Municipal Emergency Dial 1-866-856-3247**

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

September 11 – Regular Council Meeting
September 25 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

September 27, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Scotch Line Landfill. Bring your sensitive documents to be safely shredded on-site — no need to remove staples.
We're also collecting donations for the Minden Community Food Centre: Non-perishable food items, toiletries, and monetary donations welcome. Protect your privacy and give back to the community.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Don't miss the final week of *Of Light and Life*, a new exhibit by world renowned artist Michael Dumas. The exhibit features over 70 original works, spanning the last 70 years. Michael will be on-site in the Gallery on September 13 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm to present an Artist Talk, and sign copies of his recently published book *Algonquin Legacy - The Art of Michael Dumas*. The Artist Talk will begin at 1:30 pm. *Algonquin Legacy* is available for sale in the Gallery.
- The exhibit *Haycock: One Family's Canvas of Canada*, tells the story of how a chance meeting in 1927 between Maurice Haycock and A.Y. Jackson in Canada's Arctic led to nearly 100 years of painting for Maurice, his daughter's Kathy and Karole, and his granddaughter Erika. Join us for the opening reception on Saturday, September 20 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm.
- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm until October 11. Daily drop-in programs are offered Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 11 am.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Take Notice that the Special Council Meeting scheduled for September 16, 2025, is cancelled. Items scheduled for the Special Council Meeting will instead be included in an upcoming September Regular Council meeting agenda.
Dated this 4th day of September 2025

If you have any questions, please contact:
Vicki Bull, Clerk Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 ext. 515

WE'RE HIRING!

Looking for a great place to work? The Township of Minden Hills is a supportive, community-focused employer with opportunities in a variety of departments.

- Build your career
- Make a difference
- Work close to home

Check out our current openings: www.mindenhills.ca/careers

REGISTERED PROGRAMS

Sign up your youth for one of our registered kids' programs today. Programs include basketball, floor hockey, volleyball and creative minds. Register online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917 Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills @Township_MindenHills

Volunteers needed for fall events at the MH Cultural Centre

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is currently seeking volunteers to assist with two major seasonal events this fall: Haunting in Minden Hills on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Christmas in the Village on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Volunteer tasks include greeting guests, providing directions, assisting with activities such as crafts, games, and scavenger hunts, supporting performers and vendors, and helping with set-up and clean-up. For Haunting in Minden Hills, volunteers are welcome to dress in costumes to add to the festive atmosphere.

Volunteers can gain experience in a guest-service environment, earn community service hours, and meet new people. These events are a great way to get involved and contribute to Cultural Centre's events and programming.

Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca with their name, contact information, and availability, or call 705-286-3763 for more details.

Submitted

Four documentary screening events

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre, in collaboration with the Haliburton County Public Library, will be offering the following four documentary screening events this fall.

- *Angry Inuk* (2016) will be screened on Sept.25 at 1 and 5 p.m. Directed by Alethea Arnaquq-Baril, this powerful documentary highlights the Inuit's fight to protect their hunting rights and traditions against the backlash from anti-seal hunting campaigns. The film gives a first-hand look at the struggles of Indigenous communities and their efforts to reclaim their cultural practices.
- *A Return to Memory* (2024) will be shown on Oct. 9 at 1 p.m. Directed by Donald McWilliams, this powerful feature-length documentary explores the untold story of the women who helped shape Canadian cinema during World War II. The National Film Board (NFB) mobilized women into critical creative and technical positions, such as editing, animation, cinematography, and graphic design, helping to establish and shape Canadian documentary filmmaking as it is recognized today.
- *Rosies of the North* (1999) will be screened on Nov. 6 at 1 p.m. Directed by Kelly Saxberg, this National Film Board documentary tells the story of the women who worked at the Canadian Car and Foundry plant in Fort William (now Thunder Bay), Ontario, during World War II. These women played a vital role in building Hawker Hurricane fighter planes, stepping into industrial roles traditionally held by men.
- *Sons* (2024) will be shown on Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. Directed by Justin Simms, this personal and thought-provoking NFB documentary explores fatherhood and modern masculinity. Through candid footage of his son Jude's first five years, Simms explores how men can raise empathetic and grounded boys in today's world. The film blends intimate reflections with conversations among fathers, challenging conventional notions of masculinity and envisioning a more emotionally open model of manhood.

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden, Ontario. For more information, visit the Cultural Centre's social media calendar page: www.facebook.com/mindenculturalcentre.

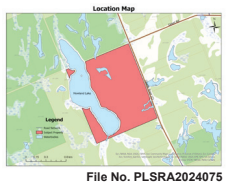
Submitted

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land, being shoreline road allowances, more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024075**: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Howland Lake, lying in front of 5373 County Road 121, located within Part Lot 14, Concession A, Geographic Township of Lutterworth



File No. PLSRA2024075

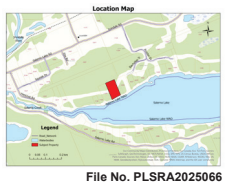
2. **File No. PLSRA2025016**: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Mountain Lake, lying in front of 1058 Mountain View Road, located within Part Lot 7, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Minden

File No. PLSRA2025016

3. **File No. PLSRA2025047**: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of 1908 Twelve Mile Lake Road, located within Part Lot 9, Concession 11 & 12, Geographic Township of Minden

File No. PLSRA2025047

4. **File No. PLSRA2025066**: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Salerno Lake, lying in front of 1155 Hancock Road, located within Part Lot 30, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Snowdon



File No. PLSRA2025066

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned. .

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **October 3, 2025.**

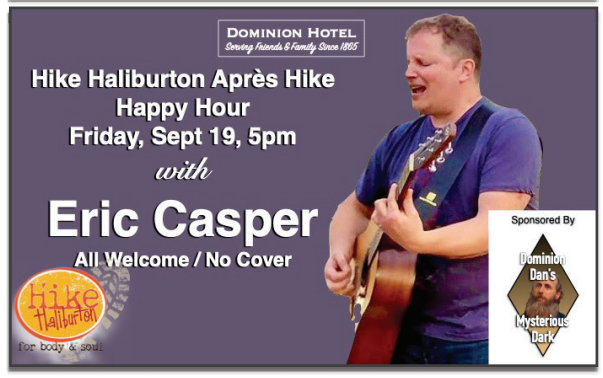
AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than October 3, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closures and conveyances will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider By-laws for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

DOMINION HOTEL
Serving Friends & Family Since 1865

The Home of Live Entertainment



DOMINION HOTEL
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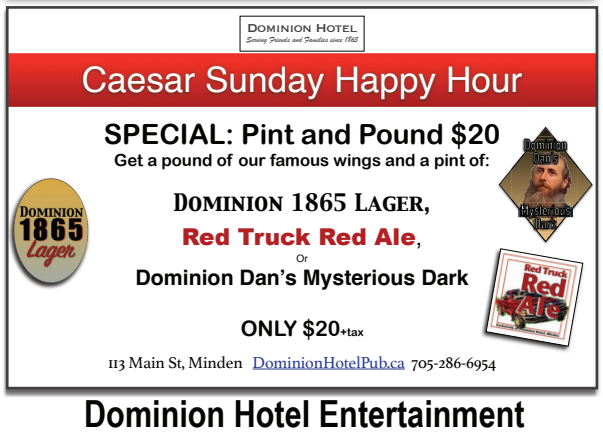
Hike Haliburton Après Hike
Happy Hour
Sunday, Sept 21 4-7pm
Sponsored By
Dominion Dan's Mysterious Dark
The Jazz Bros
Hike Haliburton
for body & soul
Featuring songs made famous by by Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra,
Duke Ellington, Nat King Cole, Henry Mancini and more.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Dominion Hotel Entertainment

Sat Sep 13	5:00 PM	Saturday Live	Bill Black
Sun Sep 14	1:00 PM	Books & Bites	BlueHeronBooks.com
		Hike Haliburton	Sept 18-21
Fri Sep 19	5:00 PM	Happy Hour	Eric Casper
Sat Sep 20	5:00 PM	Happy Hour	Jeff Moulton
Sun Sep 21	4:00 PM	Happy Hour	The Jazz Bros

Info @ https://DominionHotelPub.ca

Join our e-mail newsletter for advance notice of live music and food specials!

Kinmount Fair

A sure sign that summer has come to an end: the Kinmount Fair. The annual weekend-long event welcomed hundreds to Kinmount the last weekend of August, where rides, performances, competitions, and carnival foods were offered to attendees. /TIM YANO staff photographer

CORN
HOT DOGS
CORN DOGS
HOT DOGS
LEMONADE
MENU

EVERY CHILD IS SPECIAL AT KINMOUNT FAIR
EVERY CHILD IS SPECIAL AT KINMOUNT FAIR
EVERY CHILD IS SPECIAL AT KINMOUNT FAIR
DESIGN A DEMOLITION DERBY CAR

The little things in life with Jamie McGowan

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Musician Jamie McGowan has recently released his EP, titled *The Little Things*. The Celtic/folk artist regularly performs with the Haliburton County Folk Society, and is dedicated to showcasing his passion for music with the community. /FILE

As I type these words, Jamie McGown's album, *The Little Things*, spins on in the background.

Giving up, it's easy to see, spend our whole lives in fear, on a leash.

The three-track EP became available to stream on all platforms in early spring, once the mixing and recordings were completed in the Canoe FM studios in the heart of Haliburton.

But the sound studio is a long way from where McGowan originally hailed from. And while his journey has come with twists and turns around the globe, settling into the folk world of the Haliburton Highlands is exactly where the musician wants to be. "The background of a lot of the people here is Celtic," said McGowan over a pint on a Friday evening in town. "And I play to that. I celebrate that."

The songs are upbeat, with undertones of poetry and lulling Celtic vibes. You can hear an acoustic guitar strummed, a mandolin plucked; all with McGowan on vocals, weaving his own stories throughout the notes and setting a world of shared experiences for listeners. "The music I play is very personal," he said. "But I don't think creativity should be rigid. You can't learn this process. I think you have to have that gene, and I think I have that."

McGowan was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. He lived there with his family for five years of his childhood, before his parents opted to return to their Scottish roots. Upon settling in a suburb of Glasgow, the young McGowan took to music once he started school. "The first song I ever played was *Greensleeves* on the glockenspiel," he laughed. "But as I got older, on my lunch breaks, I started playing the guitar." By the time came for his high school music exam, McGowan played *Tears in Heaven* by Eric Clapton, and his love for folky-rock music was set in stone.

"I love folk music in general," nodded McGowan, "but I generally have a Celtic focus, with alternative folk-rock." He shared that his music sometimes receives "mixed results," but for the most part, many gravitate to the sound. As a self-taught musician, his songs always start with the guitar riff first, and the words generally follow suit based on the tune. "It's very difficult to do," he said. "But I have a process. And that creative process is huge."

While McGowan was living in Scotland, he ended up moving into his grandmother's house after she had passed. One day, he got a knock at the door. "And it was a backpacker from New Zealand," he chuckled. The backpacker was looking for a long-lost relative: McGowan's grandmother. It turned out that the two were distant cousins, and formed a fast friendship. McGowan proceeded to take the traveller around his country, showing him the best hiking and camping spots. Once the visit was over, his new-found cousin extended the invite for McGowan to join him in New Zealand, any time he wanted. "So I left," he said.

Turns out, the random adventure would be one of the most important whim-decisions of his life. After travelling around the country on his own, McGowan met one very important person: the woman who eventually became his wife. "People always ask our love story," he chuckled. "But it's just a classic one. We met while backpacking New Zealand."

But, like all great love stories, his future wife had a homebase in Canada, so the couple made the move to the Great White North after travelling the countryside of New Zealand together. His soon-to-be-wife, Melissa, had family in the Eagle Lake area, and while the couple completed schooling in Toronto, made frequent trips to the region. "I always knew we were destined to live up here," McGowan said. "It was only a matter of time."

That time came in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic, which allowed the couple the opportunity to make the move from Toronto to Haliburton. "It's called 'the Highlands,'" laughed McGowan. "I love it. I see a lot of similarities to my own town, back home."

It's been the couple's new home for the past four years, and they have since welcomed a young son to their crew; the next generation of music lovers.

But being in the area has allowed McGowan to tap back into a musical side; a piece of his personality that took a hiatus during his traipses around the globe. "I didn't play music for a long time," he said. "I had lost the spark. But that came back when I moved to Haliburton."

> ***"I always knew we were destined to live up here. It was only a matter of time..."***
>
> — Jamie McGowan, musician

One key factor for reigniting that spark was his introduction to musical aficionado and local legend, Brian Sachs. With a thick Scottish background, McGowan was adamant about having a bagpiper for their wedding, which took place in Eagle Lake. The couple were introduced to Sachs, who piped at their wedding, and from there, formed a fast friendship with McGowan. The two play across the county, each leaning into Celtic roots and folky undertones. "Brian really sparked that urge for me to get back into music," he said. "Teaming up with him has been just awesome."

McGowan joined the Haliburton County Folk Society, and sits on two separate committees within that organization. He also plays a series of solo and accompanied gigs at bars, events, and restaurants across the Haliburton Highlands, and recently opened for Juno-award winner Celeigh Cardinal at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavillion. "That was huge," he said. "That was the biggest show I've ever done."

But he's not slowing down any time soon. McGowan has a vision for his music, and the presence of music in the area. Releasing his EP from Canoe FM was only just the beginning for the musician, who has allowed his lens of life to take the lead in his musical endeavours. "I always took joy in the small things in life," he said, referencing the name of his new album. "The small things add up to the big things."

Rare blue green frog found at Walkabout Farms

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

This axanthic blue coloured green frog was spotted in the horse trough at Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association. Stephen Hecnar, a biology professor at Lakehead University, estimates that the mutation occurs at a rate of 0.006 per cent /submitted

With the fire ban being lifted on Thursday, Aug. 28, the recent rain has been a blessing not only for humans, but nature around us.

On Friday, Aug. 15, Jennifer Semach of Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding noticed a visitor in their horse trough.

"It came over to the horse trough that I had over filled to get some moisture and relief from the heat," said Semach. "Amphibians have really suffered this summer."

The visitor was a blue-coloured green frog. This blue coloration, called axanthism, is caused by a mutation in the frog's cells, reducing the amount of yellow pigmentation in their skin.

Stephen Hecnar, a biology professor at Lakehead University is currently researching frogs with axanthism. His project titled *Geographic Distribution of Axanthic Green Frogs* was started to collect the scattered records of axanthic green frogs to determine if there were any trends of occurrence across their geographic range. Their project currently consists of over 300 records from 200 different locations across Canada.

"Axanthism is very rare in Ontario and also across the entire geographic range of the Green Frog," said Hecnar. "We found 6 out of 93,873 records of blue-coloured Green Frogs in the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas database."

This suggests that blue green frogs are exceptionally rare, occurring at a rate of 0.006 per cent. In other records of the trait, axanthism occurs in less than one per cent of frogs found. Axanthism occurs in other species of frog species such as leopard frogs, bullfrogs, and eastern gray treefrogs. Green frogs seem to have this mutation more commonly than any other species.

Hecnar says that the data points to axanthism occurring more frequently in the northern part of the green frog's range and that the trait increases in frequency heading eastward. The trait is also significantly more common in females. Hecnar says that two large clusters of axanthism have been identified in Ontario. One is at the eastern end of Lake Ontario and the other is in the Bruce Peninsula. The other large cluster in Canada is on the border between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The intense heat and mediocre snow coverage has been a great challenge to amphibians in Ontario.

Thin snow coverage in the past two years has reduced the amount of insulation that keeps frogs warm, increasing the over-winter mortality rate due to deeper freezing depth, says Hecnar. Late springs meant delayed emergence from their hibernation sites and reduced breeding season lengths.

"The increased heat and drought conditions will be affecting amphibians but some species appear to be more susceptible than others to these weather/climatic challenges," said Dr. Hecnar. "We currently have limited knowledge of how climate change is affecting amphibians but interest is increasing and some research projects are working on the topic."

Why might we have more blue green frogs in Haliburton County and in other parts of their northern range? That answer is currently unknown, says Hecnar.

The green frog's colouration patterns help them blend in with their environment. As ambush predators, hiding from prey is crucial. With blue colouration, the frogs stand out more to predators. This may explain why there are more in the northern and furthest eastern range, because there are less predators, says Hecnar.

"Another hypothesis is that the darker bluish colouration may help individuals capture sunlight more efficiently," said Hecnar. "Providing a thermal advantage for these cold-blood creatures in the colder part of their range."

However, these hypotheses need to be tested in the future.

More information on the *Geographic Distribution of Axanthic Green Frogs* research project and the Amphibian and Reptile Ecology Lab can be found at shecnar.lakeheadu.ca.

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Take Back the Night announces 'Rage and Resistance' theme

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

At Take Back the Night events around the world last year, participants were disheartened with some actions of the public. Women reported harassment while walking in the event and in some instances, people were assaulted and grabbed.

This year's theme of Take Back the Night is "Rage and Resistance."

"The whole notion of the event is to stand proud and take back the night," said Tina Thornton, director of Philanthropy for YWCA Peterborough Haliburton.

Take Back the Night events have taken place for over 60 years, with the first protests demanding resources and safety for women in the United States.

While organizers faced unexpected challenges last year, Thornton says that the participants in Minden's Take Back the Night event were wonderful and fully supportive.

Thornton estimates that around thirty people showed up to the event last year. The thirty participants brought big energy and felt like hundreds, says Thornton.

"They were incredibly engaged and excited," said Thornton.

This year's Take Back the Night event in Minden will be on Thursday, Sept. 18.

Participants are to meet around the Canadian Tire in Minden. The event will bring walkers to the Riverwalk and back again. All participants are encouraged to bring their own posters of protest, encouragement, and support.

At the end of 2024, the County of Haliburton declared domestic violence an epidemic.

"We are incredibly happy to see that," said Thornton. "In the future, we are hopeful that Ontario and Canada follow suit."

Thornton says that statistics show the rate of domestic violence being two times higher in urban areas like Haliburton ounty, than in city areas like Toronto and Peterborough. Women experiencing domestic violence in rural areas are slower to seek out help than other women. With less resources, accessibility to help is a huge factor to protect women's lives.

With some hurdles in the county, such as lack of internet, the YWCA strives to reach women in alternative ways.

Thornton says that a large part of her job is to be a public presence in the community. Looking for hand signals, moments of one-on-one conversations, and eye contact, Thornton tries to be present at public events like Rotaryfest to allow people to know that there are resources available. Through slipping her card or handing out brochures, the public needs to be made more aware of the services available to women in rural areas.

Unlike urban areas, people from smaller town communities are less likely to leave their safety net behind. With the YWCA's Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace and their other journey of care services, women are supported to stay safe locally, help plan a safety plan, housing, counselling, and support to get women back on their feet.

The Take Back the Night event is for families and people of all ages who are wanting to take a stand against domestic violence. Having a poster or walking to show your support in the community may make the difference to someone you love, or a stranger passing by.

"It's about having solidarity together and ending domestic violence," said Thornton. "It is very encouraging to have youth as young as six and seven to walk with us."

YWCA needs around one million dollars per year in order to operate and offer their free services to women and their families. Donations will be welcomed at the event.

If you, or someone you know is in need of their services, they have a 24 hour, seven day a week hotline available at 1-800-461-7656. Someone will always be there to take your call and match you to the services you need.

You are not alone. With events like Take Back the Night, know that there is someone in the community that has got your back and people want to support you.

"We need to get the word out," said Thornton.

Share your harvest, share your heart

It's time for the annual Applesauce Project.

If you have extra apples on your property this fall, we'd love for you to share them with us.

Together, we'll turn your apples into applesauce and apple desserts - nourishing families, children, and neighbours in our community through our Community Kitchen Program.

Drop-Off Location: SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, 49 Maple Ave, Haliburton

Dates: Sept. 16 to the 18

Times: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Every basket, bag, or bushel makes a difference. Your apples will bring warmth, comfort, and kindness to vulnerable seniors and families in the community.

Thank you for helping us spread the ripple effect of care.

For more info about SIRCH Community Services, please visit sirch.on.ca.

Submitted

IF YOU ARE NOT LISTENING TO CANOE FM ...

We want to know why

Canoe FM is your community radio station, and we're running a short survey to learn how we can serve our community better. Even if you don't listen to us, your feedback is just as important— we want to hear why.

Take a few minutes to share your thoughts and you'll be entered to
WIN A $250 GIFT CARD TO A LOCAL BUSINESS OF YOUR CHOICE.

Complete the survey at
www.canoefm.com/2025-listener-survey
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CANOE 100.9 & 97.1 FM
www.CanoeFM.com

Scan me for survey

Thank you for supporting Canoe FM - your community radio station. Your voice helps shape the future of community radio in Haliburton County.

Fall is in the air at annual Stanhope Fall Colours Fly-in

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

Brantley Alcock takes in the views high above the Haliburton Highlands during a past Stanhope Fly-in. /FILE

The Stanhope Municipal Airport is set to host its annual Fall Colours Fly-in later this month, marking a sure sign that autumn has arrived in Haliburton County.

The beloved community tradition will welcome aviation enthusiasts, families and tourists on Sept. 27 for a full day of family fun surrounded by the fall colours of the Haliburton Highlands.

"We're going to have great food this year, from pizza, hot dogs and hamburgers and we're also going to have some west Indian food this year, so there's a great variety," Keith Francis, chair of the Stanhope Municipal Airport Advisory Committee, said in a telephone interview. "If the weather is good, we can expect about 100 airplanes and close to 500 attendees."

Francis said the annual tradition is really set up for the community so county residents can take in the airport and the benefits of having the facility. It's also for the youth in the community to expose them to the possibility of getting into the aviation industry as a career choice.

"We're going to have pilots here to speak about the industry, the MNR (Ministry of Natural Resources) will be here, so it's really focused on the community," Francis said. "We are going to try to get kids as close as possible to airplanes so they can talk to the pilots about that sort of thing.

"We really want to get people out, kids who are thinking about what they want to do for a living in the future, whether they are 10 years old or 18 years old, the event is really for the community," Francis explained.

Of course the event is for all ages, featuring live music, local artists and artisans, face painting and vintage aircrafts. The MNR, local fire department and members of the Ontario Provincial Police will be on hand holding demonstrations and engaging with the community.

As for the aircraft, Francis said people can expect to see planes from the 1940s "all the way up to current times."

"We may see some World War Two stuff, the trainer airplanes, big yellow training airplanes," he said. "But we're also going to see some antique and classic cars and some pretty exotic modern cars too."

Attendees will also be able to take in the gorgeous fall colours that the Highlands has to offer by taking scenic helicopter or airplane rides.

Francis said he's crossing his fingers for decent weather on Sept. 27 but a rain date is scheduled for the following day should it be needed.

"So far we've had maybe eight of these events and have only had bad weather for one of the days, so we're doing okay," he said.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The British Home Children: Canada's Forgotten Legacy

The Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group and the Minden Hills Cultural Centre welcome Lori Oschefski, founder and President of Home Children Canada to the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Welch Room on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 1:30 p.m.

Join us for her insightful presentation on the history of the British Home Children (BHC) migration programs. Discover the challenges these child migrants faced, the hardships of indentured service, and the resilience that led to their success. Learn about key resources for research and explore the vast contributions Home Children made to Canada's development and war efforts. Through compelling stories and historical insights, this presentation sheds light on an overlooked chapter of Canadian history and honours the legacy of over 100,000 BHC who helped shape the nation, including dozens who were sent to this county.

On the evening before this event, Adele Espina of the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group will speak about the British Home Children who were placed in homes throughout the Haliburton Highlands. Tuesday, Sept. 16, 7:00 p.m. at St Paul's United Church Parish Hall, 23 Invergordon Ave., Minden.

Free admission to both events, refreshments available.

Submitted

Search warrant in Haliburton results in arrests and drug seizure

Three people are facing charges after the execution of a Controlled Drug and Substances Act (CDSA) search warrant in Dysart et al.

On Thursday, Sept. 4, members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Haliburton Highlands Detachment Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), with assistance from the City of Kawartha Lakes Detachment CSCU executed a CDSA search warrant at a residence on Skyline Park Road in Municipality of Dysart et al.

As a result of the search, police seized suspected crack cocaine, approximately $4225 in Canadian currency, and an imitation firearm.

As a result of the investigation, a 68-year-old from Dysart et al, was arrested and charged with:

- Possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - cocaine
- Possession of imitation weapon for dangerous purpose
- Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime under $5000

Additionally, an 18-year-old from Oshawa; was arrested and charged with:

- Possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - cocaine
- Possession of imitation weapon for dangerous purpose
- Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime under $5000

Additionally, an 18-year-old from Oshawa, was arrested and charged with:

- Possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - cocaine
- Possession of imitation weapon for dangerous purpose
- Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime under $5000

The three accused are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in November.

Submitted

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		8						6
			2		6			4
			4	1		3		
1		6				9		
5	2				3			
					5		7	
4	7			9				
	1			5				
			7			6		

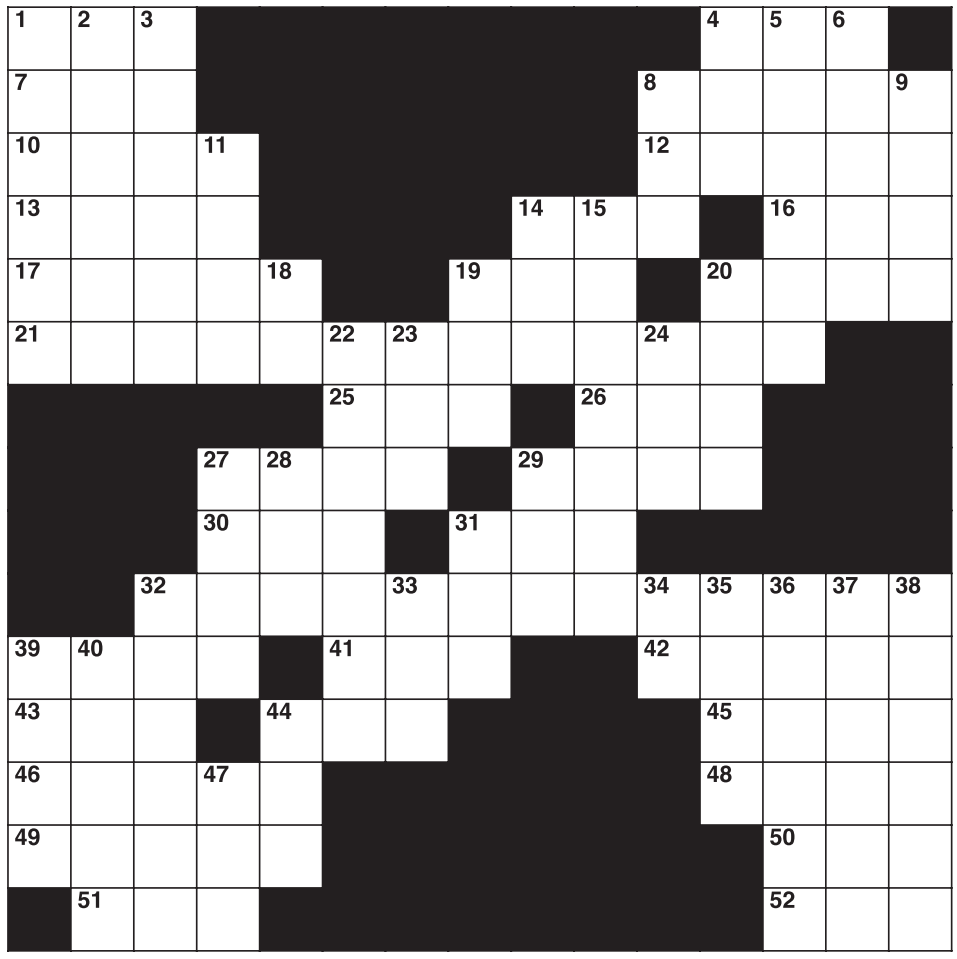
Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 23



CLUES ACROSS
1. Utilitarian fashion accessory
4. Engine additive
7. Macaws
8. Listens to
10. Self-righteously moralistic person
12. Made of wood
13. Chinese lute
14. Beginning military rank
16. Indicates near
17. Ties the score
19. Chum
20. Long ago
21. Localities
25. Midway between northeast and east
26. Make fun of
27. Tennis great Arthur
29. Construction location
30. Cow's noise
31. Blue
32. One of the Fab Four
39. Formula 1 team
41. Dash
42. Lifting device
43. Basics
44. Keyboard key
45. Old Irish alphabet
46. Shaking of the Earth's surface
48. Covered stadium
49. Sword handles
50. Longing or yearning
51. Creators' social network
52. Boxing's GOAT

CLUES DOWN
1. Occur
2. Show up
3. Capital of Taiwan
4. Ocean
5. Givers and ___
6. Gets ready
8. Ad __
9. Fit of irritation
11. Criminal organization
14. Exclamation that denotes disgust
15. American state
18. Sensor hub
19. Before
20. The boundary of a surface
22. Witnesses
23. Singular
24. Type of meal
27. Music awards show
28. Former French coin of low value
29. A bag-like structure in an animal
31. Schenectady County Airport
32. Calm down
33. Partner to cheese
34. Cola brand
35. Stepped on
36. Japanese city
37. Type of coating
38. A citizen of Yemen
39. Popular breakfast item corned beef __
40. On a line at right angles to a ship's length
44. First responders
47. Short-term memory

Answers on page 23

Women of Haliburton County gather together

The Canadian Federation of University Women will be gathering together on Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. at Fleming College to connect, explore interests like cooking, reading, hiking, and more. The Canadian Federation of University Women of Haliburton Highlands welcomes all women who support education and women's rights. You don't need a degree. Learn more at cfuwhh.ca. We look forward to meeting you and exploring how we can make a difference together. /submitted

Places For People announces groundbreaking partnership

Places For People is proud to announce a powerful new partnership with Habitat For Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region to address the urgent need for affordable housing in Haliburton County.

Join Us for an Information Session

We invite contractors, potential homeowners, renters, and all members of the community to attend this exciting announcement followed by an information session on Thursday, Sept. 18th from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Haliburton Legion. This session will provide an opportunity to learn more about a new project in development and meet directly with Habitat For Humanity's team to ask questions and find out how to get involved.

The need for affordable housing in Haliburton is at a critical point, and this project aims to provide much-needed housing solutions for individuals and families. With an emphasis on building vibrant, sustainable communities, the partnership will create opportunities to ensure that everyone in the community has access to a safe, affordable place to live.

Susan Zambonin, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region says: "Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region is thrilled to be partnering with Places for People to bring an affordable housing solution to Haliburton. Access to safe, decent, and affordable housing is a challenge for so many in the community, and this partnership is an important step toward addressing that need."

"This partnership is about more than just building homes - it's about creating a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive," said Places For People president Susan Tromanhauser. "By combining our expertise in affordable rental housing with Habitat For Humanity's legacy of building homeownership opportunities, we're laying the foundation for a stronger, more inclusive Haliburton."

Community Support Is Key

This is a community-driven project and we need your support to make it a reality. Whether you can volunteer your time, donate materials, offer financial contributions, or provide land, every bit makes a difference. We're stronger together, and together, we can bring affordable housing to Haliburton County.

Let's Build a Future Together

Both Places For People and Habitat For Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region are committed to advocating for affordable housing solutions, sharing resources, and working hand-in-hand with the community to ensure long-term stability and sustainability for the homes we create.

About Places For People:

Places For People is a not-for-profit charity that specializes in developing and managing affordable rental housing for people who live and work in Haliburton. We have housed 100 people to date and we are growing. We are committed to empowering individuals and families to thrive within our community. Our vision is not only to provide shelter but to ignite opportunity, self-determination and a true sense of belonging. By leveraging our expertise and creative approach together with our social capital we are reshaping the role of housing ensuring that everyone has access to more than just a place to live but also a place to grow, connect and succeed in Haliburton. For more information please visit us on line placesforpeople.ca

About Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region: Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting affordable home-ownership. Habitat gives a 'hand-up' not a 'hand-out' to families and individuals by offering no down payment and geared to income monthly payments. Since 2002, Habitat PKR has supported 96 local families into affordable homeownership. For more information, please visit www.habitat-pkr.ca

For media interviews please contact Sherry Lawr sherry@placesforpeoople.ca 416-888-3867

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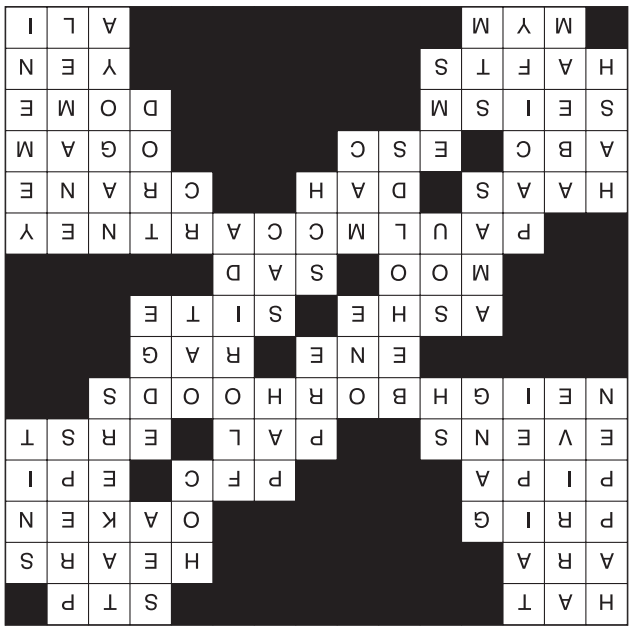

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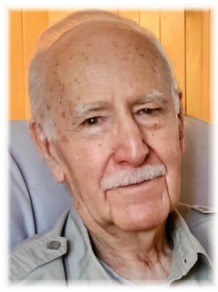

In Loving Memory of

Valentine, David L.

David L Valentine age 89 years passed peacefully on September 3, 2025

Beloved husband of the late Carole Valentine (2024). Predeceased by brothers Bill and Peter. Survived and lovingly remembered by his children Meaghan (Tim); Tavis and Andrew; grandsons Jaiden and Jackson; in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends from around the world.

As per David's request cremation has taken place and there will be no funeral or celebration of life. If desired a donation to Buffalo Toronto Public Media (PBS/NPR), Carpenter Hospice, Southern Ontario Sheltie Rescue or another charity of your choice in David's memory would be sincerely appreciated.

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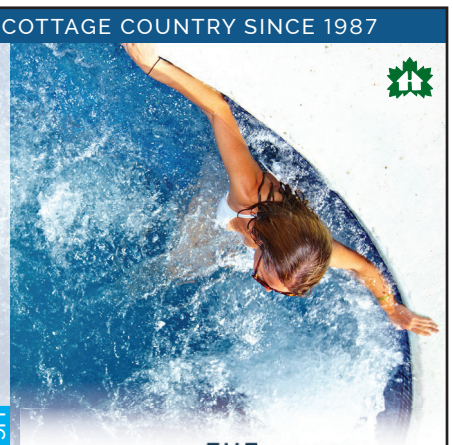

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Finishing fourth

Kinmount Fair a feast of sights, sounds

From steam engines to prize winning pies, there was a little bit of everything

When it comes to simple pleasures, there are few things that can match the atmosphere of a country fair. Whether it's the sight of eight huge Belgian horses hitched to a brightly painted wagon, the cacophony of the midway, the pungent smell of freshly cut hay or the bliss and thump of a steam engine, a country fair is a place to heighten the senses and quicken the mind. And when it comes to providing these things in abundance, there are few country fairs that can claim to be better than the one held in Kinmount over the weekend.

Horse, cattle and sheep competitions drew entrants from a wide area. Rides, games, contests, a demolition derby, entertainment, an amateur contest, food of many kinds, handicrafts, baking, flower and vegetable displays, antique cars, old pumps and engines, a parade, a dance and scores of other attractions drew thousands to the fairgrounds on both days.

More than 1000 ribbons and prizes were handed out to winners and runners-up in competitions that test everything from baking and flower arranging skills to cattle breeding and horse drawing.

More than 1400 entries were shown in the display hall

Some 1400 entries were received for the 400 classes exhibited in the display hall.

Winner of the prize for the best pieced cotton quilt was Dorothy Hodgson of Burnt River. The best reversible quilt was made by Beatrice Taylor of Minden, who had more than 120 entries in this year's fair.

In the afghan classes, Edith Hughes of Burnt River and Grace McPherson of Kinmount took first prizes.

The best loaf of bread entered in this year's fair was baked by Erin Perry of Kinmount. The best chocolate cake was made by Tracy Dettman, also of Kinmount. Winner of the prize for the best apple pie was Marjorie Coulter of Minden. Zeta Byrne of Fenelon Falls had the best butter tarts.

The award for the best display of baking went to Beatrice Taylor of Minden.

In the T.V. supper category, Mary Hartin of Kinmount took the red ribbon. She had more than 130 entries overall.

Norma Handley of Burnt River was the winner of the prize for the best bran muffins, while Tracy Dettman of Kinmount added another ribbon to her collection for the best orange cake.

Jean Dolan of Fenelon Falls had the best chocolate chip cookies, while Grace McPherson of Kinmount took the prize for the best date loaf.

Norma Handley of Burnt River added to her collection of honours with a first place in the tea biscuit competition, and Erin Perry did the same with her peanut butter cookies.

Mary Hartin of Kinmount also picked up a first place ribbon for her tray of six buns.

In the pickled beets category, the winner was Erin Perry of Kinmount. The best canned tomatoes were those of Fran Davis, Kinmount.

In the vegetable classes, Mary Hartin was judged to have the best display, while Margaret Fischer of Kinmount had the best 11 quart basket of potatoes.

Winner of the prize for the best six red tomatoes was Art Reid of Fenelon Falls.

Jeff Lettner of Kinmount took first prize for two white cabbages, while John Hickey, also of Kinmount, took top honours for three large potatoes. Penny Hartin of Kinmount had the best six cucumbers.

In the flower competitions, Beatrice Taylor of Minden took top honours for her display of cut flowers. Fran Harris of Kinmount had the best cactus garden, while Penny Hartin had the best asters.

In the sweepea category, Michelle Barkwell of Kinmount was the winner.

The most unusual plant was entered by Larry

More pictures on page 3

A wild ride

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO
AND MINDEN RECORDER
"The voice of the Highlands"
Vol. 99 No. 3 Wednesday, September 3, 1980 14 pages 25 cents

Bus line unhappy with board offer, will meet Tuesday

by Sue Cooper

NorthernWays bus line is not satisfied with an offer the Haliburton County Board of Education has made to area bus owners for the 1980-81 school year.

Scott LaRue, part owner of NorthernWays said Tuesday, bus operators had only met with the transportation committee in preliminary discussions before the August board meeting at which the offer was presented.

The board approved the offer giving the bus owners a 30 percent increase for the school year, a gasoline price escalator clause and the guarantee payments would not be reduced for two years if a smaller bus was required because of declining enrolment.

At the meeting, transportation chairman Leroy Eager told the board the 10 percent increase had been included in the board's budget. The gasoline escalator clause stipulated when the lowest publicly available price for gasoline in Haliburton Village exceeds 27.3 cents per litre by 5/10ths of a cent per litre or more, the board will pay an extra allowance of 2/10ths or a cent per kilometre for each increase and will also deduct accordingly for each decrease.

Last year, the board paid $525,088 for 38 buses which covered 2,769 miles each school day. This year the new offer will up the cost to $577,597 for the same mileage.

LaRue said NorthernWays was not satisfied with the offer and wrote the board requesting another meeting to discuss the matter.

Director of Education, J. Douglas Hodgson said Tuesday the matter is still open for negotation.

Transportation committee chairman Leroy Eager said the committee is "not at a point where we're not going to move under any circumstances." He indicated, however, that no complaints about the offer have been received from other area bus operators. The letter from NorthernWays indicated that there were "a few points that needed clarification, but there was no indication that they were unhappy."

NorthernWays apparently is not satisfied with the wording of the gasoline escalator clause and the percentage increase the board offered is less than NorthernWays requested, LaRue said.

Because there was not a gasoline escalator clause in the last agreement with the board, LaRue said NorthernWays was hurt by the large increase in gasoline prices over the year.

NorthernWays has 27 contracts with the board and

Reconstruction nears completion, paving begins

The construction of Highway 519 through the village of Haliburton is expected to be completed within three weeks, according to the project supervisor.

Paving was expected to begin on Tuesday, Murray Kuno said Monday.

Although the rate of progress will depend mainly on the weather, Kuno said he thought the workers would have the job done by the first week in October at the latest.

Other than the paving and trimming, only sodding and general clean-up duties need to be completed before the project ends.

Kuno said the project was on schedule and the contract would be ending when the paving was completed.

Construction began in early summer with the entire main street of Haliburton being torn up and new curbs, sidewalks and gutters being installed. Highway 519 was reconstructed beyond the village limits and new supports were put in Wallings Bridge

Children seemed happy although maybe a little apprehensive as they stepped off the buses at Victoria Street School in Haliburton. Classes began on Tuesday.

Information expected to be helpful in quest for industry

Students complete profile for EDC

With the assistance of four students, the Haliburton County Economic Development Commission has completed a community profile on all the individual municipalities as well as the county.

Bob Stinson, secretary of the EDC and manager of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, said the new information will be quite helpful to both operations.

Under the Ontario Youth Employment Program (OYEP) the students gathered information in the municipalities form the municipal offices, businesses, and libraries, Stinson said.

This information, which has been compiled into books will be used to answer questions from prospective businesses who might be thinking of locating in the area.

The EDC will now have the answers to such questions as how much the tax rates are, the cost of hydro, what zoning pertains to certain areas and the distance to villages in the county.

Having this information at their fingertips will be quite convenient for both the Chamber and the EDC, Stinson said.

While the lack of having this information hasn't been a serious problem in the past,

Cont'd page 2

Direct polluters ordered to carry out immediate repairs

Environment ministry finds defective sewage systems

A Ministry of the Environment sponsored cottage pollution survey has discovered 10 sewage disposal systems causing direct pollution of Lake Kashagawigamog and nine polluting Esson Lake. An additional 252 systems on the lakes have been classified "seriously substandard." Some 21 systems on Miskwabi Lake were also found to be substandard but no systems were classified as direct polluters.

The information is contained in a recent report from the ministry's Gravenhurst office detailing findings of a survey completed last summer.

A total of 533 sewage disposal systems on the north basin of Lake Kashagawigamog were inspected and 210 or 39 percent were classified as seriously substandard. Such systems are not causing pollution at the time of inspection, but do not meet current standards of design, construction or location, and are deemed to represent "a potential hazard" to water quality. A further 78 or 14 percent were discharging wash water onto the ground either directly or through a seepage pit, while 12, or 2.3 percent allowed faecal or urinary discharges to be exposed on the surface of the ground. Ten, or 1.9 percent of the systems inspected were found to be direct polluters. A further 158 systems were temporarily unclassified and awaiting a detailed inspection.

As of December 31, 1979, 140 systems had been corrected, and a further 10 property owners had signed agreements to have work completed during the construction season this year. The remainder were notified by letter of the problems with their systems and the corrective action required.

On Esson Lake in Monmouth Township, 117 systems were inspected, and 42 or 36 percent were found to be seriously substandard. A further 28, or 23.9 percent were discharging wash water onto the ground, and seven, or six percent were discharging faecal or urinary waste. Nine systems were found to be directly polluting the lake.

As of December 31, 1979, 44 faulty systems had been corrected and five owners had signed agreements to have work completed this year.

A total of 78 systems were inspected on Miskwabi Lake, and 21 of them, or 27 percent were classified seriously substandard. Twenty-four systems were discharging wash water onto the ground, and one was discharging faecal or urinary waste. No systems were found to be direct polluters.

Corrective work had been carried out on 26 of the faulty systems by December 31, 1979, and a further four owners had signed agreements for repairs this year.

Owners causing direct pollution are compelled to take corrective action immediately while others are asked to sign a document outlining a system's defects and the corrective work to be carried out by a specific date.

If an owner refuses to comply with a correction program, the ministry will take legal action, according to the report.

Creative play area to be in place this fall

Head Lake Park takes shape

Development in the Head Lake Park in Haliburton Village will be shaping up considerably in the next few weeks as workers try to complete the work slated for this year.

Up to this point, the men working on the project have been busy planting trees, building a huge stone waterfall and landscaping the new park area, project supervisor Ian Douglas said Monday.

Within the next two to three weeks construction will begin on a creative play area for children, cosmetic stonework on the waterfall may begin, more trees will be planted and a foot bridge will be built.

The creative play area will be condensed into a 63 by 40 foot space, Douglas said. In this area, children will be able to enjoy tube slides, several climbers, balancing cable, tire swings, platforms, an open playhouse, baby, youngster and senior swings as well as a rope net.

This area will be located approximately in the middle of the field, Douglas said. He said an effort had been made to keep the smaller children's area apart from the older children's area to avoid the normal confrontations.

The play area has been ordered with a delivery date of about three weeks. Douglas said a supervisor from the supplying company will arrive with the material and will help construct the play area, a

Cont'd page 2

Fountain to be a centrepiece of park

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Maple Lake sisters keep busy in Haliburton and beyond

Two sisters from Maple Lake, Algonquin Highlands, made their mark both at home and across the country this past Labour Day weekend.

Wakeboarding comeback for Harmony

After winning her age category, 19-29 years at the Wakeboard Provincial Championships this past July in Muskoka, Harmony Meirik is once again competing in the Canadian National Wakeboard Competition, held this year over the Labour Day weekend at Deas Island Regional Park in Delta, British Columbia. Harmony impressed fans in 2023 with strong performances at the Canadian Nationals placing first in her age category of 14-18 year old women and then second overall in Open Pro Women. She then went on to attend the 2023 World Championships in Portugal, winning the bronze medal for Canada.

Her 2024 season, however, was cut short after she suffered a devastating injury of torn ACL while training. Harmony received excellent care from "The Toronto Sports Doc," Dr. Abouali, who had been appointed the role of Lead Medical Physician at the Toronto 2015 PanAm Games, and Head Orthopaedic Surgeon at the 2022 Ontario Games. Following a successful surgery and eight months of rehabilitation, Harmony has worked tirelessly to return to the sport she loves. Now, she is eager to climb back onto the podium.

After arriving in British Columbia to compete on August 28, and learning that her wakeboard was still at Toronto airport and that it would be placed on an upcoming delayed flight, Harmony took it all in stride, getting the board just in time to practise the next day. She consistently scored over 80 points in all three of her runs winning gold in her age division 19-24 years, which made her National Champion once again. She was seeded to ride last in the Open Pro Women division, with the highest score of all the winners in each age division, and she certainly delivered as the only Pro Woman to complete a 360 wake to wake jump! Although she narrowly missed the gold in Pro Women by two points, she demonstrated nerves of steel, ending her final run with the scarecrow trick that had

caused her knee injury back in July 2024. Although she had, previous to the injury, landed it dozens of times, she sadly didn't quite get it around and went down, but on a positive note, has now conquered her fear of that trick.

When she's not training, Harmony can be found at Ski-Mazing Water Sports,on Twelve Mile Lake, teaching young riders the art of wake boarding. You can see her on the Ski-Mazing road sign flipping upside down, located on Highway 35. This fall she has also taken on a role at YMCA Camp Wanakita, sharing her passion for the water with campers. Harmony rides behind an Axis T220 wakeboard boat and you can find her out on the water early mornings and before dusk. Harmony is currently sponsored by Gordon Bay Marine and is on the Wake Canada National Elite Team, coached by Dary Znebel.

Sommer's year as Fair Ambassador

Meanwhile, Harmony's sister, Sommer, has had a whirlwind year of her own. Chosen on the previous labour day weekend, as the 2024–2025 Fair Ambassador for the Kinmount Fair, Sommer enjoyed a wonderful weekend packed with ambassador duties such as handing out awards and welcoming everyone to the

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fair. She then represented her community at the Canadian National Exhibition's Fair Ambassador competition this August. She also participated in parades, attended various other local fairs representing Kinmount, and attended events with Ontario's Association of Agricultural Societies such as the O.A.A.S Convention in February 2025, held in Richmond Hill.

This Labour Day weekend, Sommer officially passed on her title to the incoming 2025–2026 Ambassador. As she hands over the plaid tartan sash, she plans to share her experiences and encourage the next Kinmount Fair Ambassador to embrace the unique role. She also has intentions to stay involved with the Kinmount Agricultural Society to volunteer her time to make the fair even more magnificent, developing the Ambassador Program even further. On Sept. 2, she headed off to earn her Bachelor of Education degree at Trent University, after completing her Honours Bachelor of Child and Youth Studies degree this past June 2025.

Congratulations to these incredibly talented sisters!

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